

**Remarks**

The Office action mailed October 6, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 29, now canceled. Claim 30 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 32, now canceled. Claims 33, 34, 40, 44, and 51 have now been canceled. New claims 52-56 have now been added. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Wong. This rejection is traversed for the reasons set forth below. The remarks below for each claim are limited to that claim only and should be not be construed as relating to any other claim.

*Independent claims 26 and 30*

Claims 26 and 30 have been amended to recite “guide arms.” Wong does not disclose such guide arms. Wong discloses an apparatus that includes a tiltable steering roll 14 (see column 4, lines 25-30 and column 7, lines 16-35). A tiltable steering roll is not the same as guide arms. Hence, the pending 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of independent claims 26 and 30 (and all the claims that depend therefrom) must be withdrawn.

*Independent claim 36*

The apparatus of claim 36 includes a plurality of guide members located proximate feed rollers, wherein the guide members are configured to align strip materials. Wong does disclose such guide members. Accordingly, the pending 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of independent claim 36 (and all the claims that depend therefrom) must be withdrawn. If the examiner persists in this rejection, applicants respectfully ask the examiner to specifically identify the disclosure and structure in Wong that corresponds to guide members.

*Independent claim 52*

The method of claim 52 includes moving operating units in a transverse direction relative to the direction of a web path direction. The steering roll 14 of Wong tilts rather than moves in a transverse direction in response to a signal from a sensor. Since Wong fails to disclose all the features of claim 52, an anticipation rejection of claim 52 over Wong would be inappropriate.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions regarding this application, examiner Marcelo is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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